

REMARKS

Claims 1-9 and 12-13 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claim 1 is amended to overcome the 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph rejection, and correct minor typographical errors. Claim 13 is added and is supported by Figures 3 and 5 of the specification. No new matter is added by this Amendment.

I. Interview

Applicants appreciate the courtesies shown to Applicants' representative by Examiner Chan in the January 28, 2009 interview. Applicants' separate record of the substance of the interview is incorporated into the following remarks.

II. Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants thank the Examiner for the indication that claims 9 and 12 would be allowable if the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, is overcome. Because the rejection is overcome for the reasons described below, claims 9 and 12 are in condition for allowance.

III. Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §112, Second Paragraph

Claims 1-9 and 12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph as allegedly being indefinite. The Patent Office alleges that it is unclear whether the holding members are engaged to (1) each other or (2) the spring clip.

Applicants have amended to claim 1 to recite that the at least two holding members are engaged together by the spring clip. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that the Patent Office's rejection of claim 1 is overcome.

Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

IV. Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §102(b)

Claims 1-3 and 6-8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,595,473 ("Aoki"). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

The Patent Office alleges that Aoki describes a support device comprising two half cylindrical bodied holding members (89, 90 and 90') engaged by a spring clip (92 and 93). See Office Action, page 2 (citing Aoki, Figure 7). Applicants respectfully disagree.

Aoki does not describe each of the limitations recited in claim 1.

For example, Aoki does not describe a spring clip in which the at least two holding members can be engaged together by the spring clip. Instead, Aoki describes two divisional members 90 and 90' (the alleged holding members) that are encapsulated by a covering portion 93 of the clipping shell and a receiving portion 92 of a clipping shell. See Aoki, col. 15, lines 56-67 and Figure 7. The covering portion 93 further includes engagement frame pieces 58 having an engagement hole 59. See Aoki, col. 11, lines 36-40 and col. 16, lines 4-9 and Figures 3 and 7. Moreover, the receiving portion 92 further comprises two clamping protrusions 56 on the left and right walls 55. See Aoki, col. 11, lines 36-40 and col. 16, lines 4-9 and Figures 3 and 7. In other words, Aoki merely describes a two-piece clipping shell that encapsulates the alleged holding members (90 and 90') through the connection of frame piece 58 (female end) and the clamping protrusion 55 and 56 (male end). Thus, Aoki does not describe the spring mechanism recited in claim 1.

In addition, Aoki does not describe a one-piece spring clip engaging the at least two holding members, wherein the spring clip rests on an intermediate mount that bears on an anchor plate. The alleged "spring clips" of Aoki require at least two pieces to secure the alleged holding members in place. However, claim 1 recites that the at least two holding members are engaged by a one-piece spring clip.

For at least the foregoing reasons, Aoki does not describe each of the limitations recited in claim 1, and thus does not anticipate claim 1.

Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

V. Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 1-8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,668,865 ("Miyamoto") in view of Aoki. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

The Patent Office alleges that Miyamoto also describes a support device comprising two half cylindrical bodied holding members (37) engaged by a "spring clip" (base member 24 and cover 25). However, the Patent Office admits that Miyamoto does not describe a spring clip that rests on an intermediate mount that bears on an anchor plate. The Patent Office thus introduces Aoki as allegedly describing this feature. For the reasons described below, Applicants respectfully disagree.

The Patent Office allegation that base member 24 and cover 25 in Figure 5 of Miyamoto are equivalent to the "spring clip" recited in the present claims is incorrect. Miyamoto, similar to Aoki, does not describe a spring clip in which the at least two holding members can be engaged together by the spring clip.

Miyamoto describes a pair of divided rotary members (37) (the holding members) that are covered by base member portion 24 and cover portion 25. See Miyamoto, col. 4, lines 41-55 and Figure 5. Miyamoto defines the base member portion 24 to include a lower reception case portion 29 with lock arm reception portions 35 (i.e., a locking means). See Miyamoto, col. 3, lines 19-24 and col. 4, lines 41-43 and Figure 5. Moreover, Miyamoto defines the cover portion 25 to further include the upper reception case portion 30 with lock arm portions 36 (i.e., a connection means). See Miyamoto, col. 3, lines 19-24 and col. 4, lines 42-46 and Figure 5. Accordingly, the base member portion 24 and the cover portion 25 are fixed

together by the lock arm portions 36 being inserted into the lock arm reception portions 35. See Miyamoto, col. 4, lines 45-48. In other words, Miyamoto describes a two-piece clipping shell that covers rotary members 37 (i.e., the holding members) by connecting the lock arm reception portion (female end) and the lock arm portion (male end). Thus, like Aoki, Miyamoto does not describe the spring mechanism recited in claim 1.

Further, Aoki and Miyamoto do not describe a support device designed to be installed between an aircraft engine and an associated thrust reverser, the support device comprising a means of support capable of supporting at least one fire-detection component being a capillary tube, wherein the means of support comprises at least two holding members capable of being assembled to each other detachably; and a one-piece spring clip in which the at least two holding members can be engaged together by the spring clip, wherein the spring clip rests on an intermediate mount that bears on an anchor plate. As described above, even if Aoki and Miyamoto are alleged to describe a "spring clip" (but for the reasons described above do not), the alleged "spring clips" of Aoki and Miyamoto require at least two pieces to secure the alleged holding members in place. However, claim 1 recites that the at least two holding members are engaged by a one-piece spring clip.

For the foregoing reasons, Miyamoto, alone or in combination with Aoki, would not have provided one of ordinary skill in the art with any reason or rationale to have used a one-piece spring clip to engage together at least two holding members for any reason or with any reasonable expectation of success.

Withdrawal of the rejection is requested.

VI. New Claim 13

Aoki and Miyamoto do not describe a support device, wherein a portion of the at least two holding members is not in contact with the spring clip, as recited in new claim 13. In

contrast, Aoki and Miyamoto both describe the use of a two-pieced shell to completely cover or "fully contact" the two alleged holding members. See Aoki, Figure 7 and Miyamoto, Figure 5.

VII. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-9 and 12-13 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date: February 5, 2009

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